

carried off as slaves to the West Indies, whose heads rolled on the scaffold and rotted on the gibbet, and whose blood flowed like water throughout the length and breadth of their beloved Scotland,—surely these men would have set light by all the toils and privations of missionary life had the finger of providence been seen pointing steadily in that direction. Had the voice of divine providence been heard calling, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” how many of these men would have answered, “Here am I, send me.”

In 1834 our brethren of the Reformed Presbyterian General Synod of America “pledged themselves to go on labouring to increase the number of labourers in the foreign field, until they equalled the number employed at home.” It is to be hoped that this pledge will be soon redeemed. The Americans are noted for “going a-head.” This is “going a-head” in the right direction, were I to be a member of our next Synod, I should certainly propose a similar resolution for our Church. Had we from *thirty to forty missionaries* in the New Hebrides, with the blessing of God, what an impression would such a band make on the mass of heathenism beyond us! What a stimulus would such an example prove to other churches! Our claims to be the genuine successors of the martyrs would hardly then be questioned! Our brethren in Nova Scotia would doubtless have an equal number in the field, and with the help that would flow from other quarters, heathenism would become nearly extinct in the New Hebrides as it is now in Aneiteum. I purposely speak of that number for this group; because I think it is much better, on many accounts for a small Church like ours to concentrate her missionary operations on one field, than to scatter them over many.

Now I wish it to be understood that this is not a mere rhetorical figure that I am using. It is a sober and earnest proposal which I am making to the Church, and which, should the Lord spare me to the age of some of my forefathers, I hope to see realised. I shall therefore without further preface show how, in my opinion this proposal may be easily accomplished. God does nothing *per saltum*, nothing by leaps. His works go all on so gradually that the process is scarcely perceptible, and nothing is thereby deranged or put out of order. Let us follow his plan, and look

for his blessing. I do not wish for these thirty or forty missionaries just now, or next year. I will allow you thirty years to make up this complement of missionaries, if you think such a length of time necessary. But begin next year and send us *one*. Let there be no longer any delay. You justly refer in your annual report to the critical position of your mission here, where all its interests, humanly speaking, are suspended on the brittle thread of a single life. By all means send us *one* next year. If not such a man as you could wish, at least the best man you can find. In pleading for a bishop for India, Dr Claudius Buchanan said, “Place the mitre on my head, never fear: it will do good among the Hindoos. A spiritual bishop will appear in due time.” And certainly the names of Heber and Wilson have justified his expectation. Make a beginning with *one*, and continue to send us at least *one* new missionary every year, till the number of missionaries abroad, equal the number of ministers at home. And even then we shall be far short of the Moravians. “At present, says Dr Hanna, in his life of Dr Chalmers, “the Moravian brethren in Europe and America amount to about 10,000, 230 of whom are missionaries, having under their care upwards of 50,000 converts from heathenism. Having given up one-fiftieth of their own number to the work of evangelising the nations, they have gathered in more than five times their own number from the vast field of heathenism.” Now in our Church, with its 6000 members, there cannot exist the shadow of a difficulty, to find *one* young man *every* year to go out as a missionary to the heathen. There may be found a want of *will*, but there cannot possibly be any want of *men*. And if ministers, elders, and parents would look carefully around them, and mark the indications of sanctified talents among the young, and encourage promising youths to devote themselves to the ministry, our hall might be crowded every year, and commerce and other secular pursuits would not engross all that is promising among our young men.

But, in the mean time, as missionaries cannot be extemporised—as time is required for anything like substantial acquisitions, might not the Synod invest the missionary committee, with the power of presenting calls to preachers and ministers. The missionary committee are the representatives of the heathen;